

with his leadership and see if we could accelerate that so we could bring Shays-Meehan to the floor as quickly as possible, and I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding, and I thank the leader for his consideration of that request.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I just have one other request, and I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for a comment.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I just have a question for those of us traveling from the West Coast. Is there any possibility that those votes on Tuesday could be rolled until 5 o'clock? If we leave the West Coast first thing early Tuesday morning, the first plane gets in 4 p.m., and we can be on the floor by 5:00. It would be very helpful.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his request, and I do understand how important and sensitive that is.

Ordinarily, especially on a Monday, we would almost assuredly give Members a 6 o'clock vote time. We do have again an opportunity to have an orderly week's business, but to begin, being a Tuesday beginning, I just at this point am not comfortable. Should we see a modification in the schedule, we would put out over the whip notice, but I just do not believe we can get there now.

□ 1430

But I just do not believe we can get there now.

Mr. FARR of California. So the gentleman does not think the votes could be rolled?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, we always look for these opportunities to the best of our ability, but we need to get more quickly than in many weeks to considerations of legislation under rules, and therefore we just simply cannot make that Tuesday accommodation that is so usual and, I think, so necessary and desirable. But we will continue to keep the needs of Members in our planning priorities.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1999

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 1999 for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business

in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHRISTOPHER

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my proud opportunity today to advise the House that my first grandson, Christopher Irving Arme; as we like to know him, "CIA," will be 2 years old tomorrow, and I am going to spend the whole day on that.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minute speeches.

NORTH AMERICAN SLAVERY MEMORIAL COUNCIL ACT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I believe that a quote by Papa Dallas Stewart, a former slave, captures the essence of the bill that I have introduced today when he said, "Promise me that you are going to tell all the children my story."

As a child, Stewart had his eyes burned out when an overseer caught him studying the alphabet. He spent his life encouraging others to never forget about the horrors of slavery. He understood that we must share the painful past in order to protect our future.

Today, I introduce the North American Slavery Memorial, which is patterned after the Holocaust Museum and pays tribute to those who suffered and perished under slavery in North America. This bill will ensure that future generations grasp the injustice that occurred in North America's past so that we may never repeat it.

For the sake of Papa Stewart and countless others, we must never forget the past. I encourage my colleagues to join the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and myself in cosponsoring the North American Slavery Museum bill.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask America to wake up.

Watch what is going on here on the floor of Congress. America has seen that we cannot pass effective gun reform in this Congress because we are wedded to the NRA.

Well, I want you to do something about it. I want you to wake up your mayors, city councils, county supervisors, wake up your school boards, wake up your State legislators, because they can do what we cannot do. They can pass laws regulating gun business.

Mr. Speaker, 67 cities and dozens of counties in California have adopted 183 local firearm regulations, local firearm regulations. The State legislature has passed every single law that Congress has rejected. California regulates guns; other counties, cities and school districts regulate, and so can yours. So local governments can do what Congress has refused to do.

Wake up, America. Get all of the politicians involved in this. Take this issue home, and give it to your local legislators and make those laws in your own city.

BIPARTISANSHIP FOR MAINTAINING FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago there were reports that Jack Lew, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, intended to slam Republicans for making unrealistic cuts in spending programs. But these same reports also stated that Mr. Lew would insist that the GOP resist the temptation to raise the budget caps.

An administration official said, the message is to the GOP, it is your budget, live with it. Our budget? Mr. Speaker, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act was passed by a bipartisan majority in both House and Senate and signed by the Democratic President of the United States. The problem is that while the minority leadership and the White House are talking fiscal restraint, many of their Democratic colleagues are pushing for spending well above the approved levels. The leaders and their rank and file and the OMB should get on the same page on this issue. There is time to deliberate and craft spending bills to maintain the fiscal discipline which has produced our budget surplus, but only if it is done on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Democratic colleagues to join us in the pursuit of this goal.

BRING TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

LATOURETTE), I rise to strongly urge the President and the U.S. Government to act on behalf of justice. A Palestinian terrorist in a just-released autobiography admitted he planned the attack against Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

Mr. Speaker, 11 athletes were murdered in that attack. One of the murdered was David Berger, a middle-weight lifter from Shaker Heights, Ohio, with dual American-Israeli citizenship. David's family has been waiting 27 years for justice, to find the killers and to bring them to justice.

Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud says he plotted the senseless murders in Munich. Now is the time for the United States and the world community to marshal its forces to capture Mr. Daoud and bring him before a court of law. We must do this for the memory of David Berger. We must do this for the families of all of the athletes who perished, and we must do this to fight terrorism wherever and whenever we find it.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow thousands and thousands of African Americans in Galveston, Texas, the birthplace of Juneteenth, and around the Nation will celebrate this holiday of freedom and justice. President Abraham Lincoln technically ended the right to own human beings in 1863, but most slaves gained their freedom only after Union troops took control of Confederate territory and released them from bondage.

It took 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation for the Union Army to reach Texas, the last place where slavery was not only allowed, but also enforced.

After Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and announced to the States' 200,000 slaves that they were free, they immediately erupted into jubilant celebration, much like the 4th of July.

As we look ahead to the next millennium, I challenge all of us to take this opportunity while we celebrate the rich history of this celebration of freedom to rededicate ourselves to the value of equal opportunity for all Americans, because that is at the heart of Juneteenth and the American ideal.

WASTING TIME IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, after the high school shooting in my district last year, in my hometown of Springfield,

Oregon, I talked to hundreds of residents. We had an incredible community dialogue about the causes and the possible solutions for youth violence. Everyone agreed it was complex. They had a long list of things they would like to see done. They would like to see something done about violence in the media.

After 66 amendments and dozens of hours of staying in session until 2 o'clock in the morning, this House has done nothing about violence in the media. After a day and a half on the very sensitive issue of gun control, this House has done nothing to extend instant check and background checks to people who purchase guns at gun shows. After 66 amendments and dozens of hours and late into the night, we have done nothing to add to the services to serve at-risk youth and their families and prevent them from getting into violence. Nothing. Zero.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my constituents and I hope my colleagues' constituents were watching. What we did here does not even meet the common-sense laugh test. It was a disgrace for this House of Representatives.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND U.S. CAUCASUS POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in the other body, the Senate, the Appropriations Committee, marked up the foreign operation appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2000. The legislation reported out yesterday addresses several key issues concerning U.S. policies and priorities for the Caucasus Mountain region of the former Soviet Union, an area of vital and growing importance for the U.S. in the 21st century.

Here in the House, action on the foreign operations bill is not expected until later this summer. I wanted to take a few minutes to cite some of the key provisions in the Senate legislation that I hope the House will address, as well as to cite some additional areas where the Senate did not act, but I hope the House will.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I plan to put my suggestions into a letter to the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and that subcommittee, I should point out, has many good

friends of Armenia, and I look forward to working with them.

First, the good news, Mr. Speaker. The Senate Foreign Operations bill earmarks \$90 million in assistance to the Republic of Armenia. This represents an increase over the slightly less than \$80 million that was reported in fiscal year 1999, and is certainly an improvement over the \$71.5 million requested by the administration in its budget. I believe it is important for the United States to maintain our support and partnership with Armenia, which continues to make major strides towards democracy, as evidenced by last month's parliamentary elections, as well as market reforms and increasing integration with the West.

However, Armenia's strides towards providing a better life for its people at home and being a partner for peace and stability with the West continue to be challenged by the blockades imposed by the neighboring countries, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Provisions of U.S. support provides at least some relief from the difficulties imposed by the blockades and represents a moral statement by our country that we should try to offset the effects of the illegal blockades imposed on Armenia by its neighbors. I would urge the House subcommittee to provide the same \$90 million earmark that has been included by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, another area where I will be working to have the House follow the Senate language is with regard to something that is not there, and that is repealing section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts aid to Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

Last month, Secretary of State Albright called on the Senate appropriators to repeal section 907. When the Freedom Support Act was adopted in 1992, establishing our post-Cold War U.S. foreign policy for the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet empire, section 907 was included as a way of holding Azerbaijan accountable for the blockade of its neighbors. Azerbaijan has continued its strategy of trying to strangle Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I am glad the Senate appropriators resisted the administration's proposal to lift section 907.

As I just indicated, Azerbaijan's blockade is against both the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh. Nagorno Karabagh is an historically Armenian-populated region that Stalin's mapmakers included as part of Azerbaijan. Because Nagorno Karabagh's independence has not been officially recognized by the United States, it was a tremendous breakthrough when Congress approved \$12.5 million in assistance for Nagorno Karabagh in the fiscal year 1998 legislation. Unfortunately, much of that assistance has yet to be obligated, and